Date: Monday, August 2, 1993 Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Place: Waukegan Yacht Club Waukegan, Illinois

Check the back of this fact sheet for more details, including directions to the event.

United States **Environmental Protection** Agency

Office of Public Affairs Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604

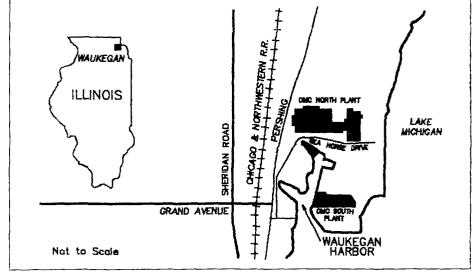
Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin

# **OMC Project Nears Completion**

## **One Million Pounds of PCBs Removed**

**Outboard Marine Corporation Superfund Site** Waukegan, Illinois

**July 1993** 



Introduction

The Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) Superfund project is nearing completion. This fact sheet highlights what needed to be done, major project accomplishments, upcoming activities, and sources to contact for additional information.

#### What Needed To Be Done?

Illinois, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a consent decree specifying the final terms for removal of over one million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the environment. The PCBs were released during previous OMC operations.

OMC agreed to several actions under the terms of the consent decree. The terms included excavation of soils and dredging of sediments from PCBcontaminated areas on OMC property and in Waukegan

In 1988, OMC, the State of Harbor, with onsite treatment to extract PCBs for off-site destruction. They also included the construction and maintenance of three containment cells (east, west, and Slip 3) permanently store treated soils and sediments, as well as to construct a new boat slip (Slip 4) to replace Slip 3 so as not to impair the recreational and commercial uses of the harbor. This PCB project, as defined by the terms of the consent decree, is substantially complete, although a few specific activities remain to be completed.

#### What Was Accomplished?

Redesign of Slip 3 and Building of Slip 4. Slip 3 was made into a permanent containment cell by constructing a cutoff wall and a slurry wall. The 290 foot cutoff wall consists of two steel sheets anchored 7 feet deep into the clay, with steel braces placed every 30 feet along the wall and keyed 12 feet deep into the clay. A 3 foot wide slurry wall was built around the entire perimeter of Slip 3.

Slip 4 was dredged and constructed to replace Slip 3. It officially opened to the public in July 1991. During the course of creating Slip 4, additional contaminants were found that were unrelated to the OMC PCB project. This area, known as the Waukegan Manufactured Gas and Coke Plant site, is being studied.

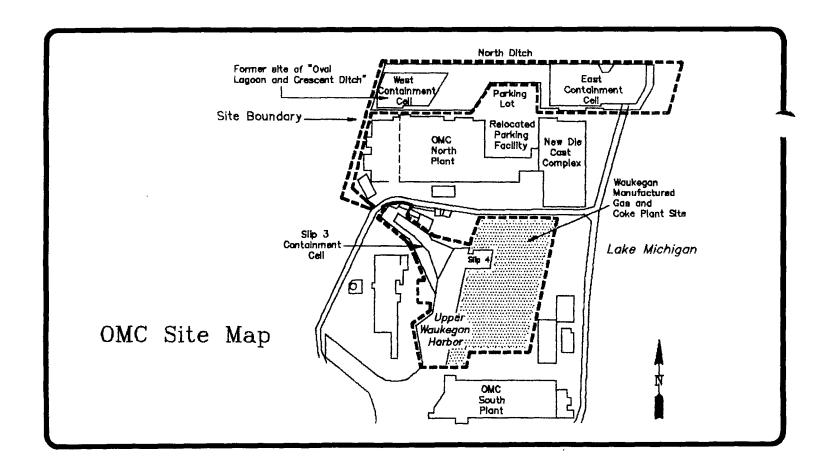
Removal of PCBs from Slip 3, the Crescent Ditch, the Oval Lagoon, and the North Ditch. Approximately 6,300 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments were dredged from Slip 3, the main source of PCBs in the Harbor. About 3,800 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments were excavated from the Crescent Ditch, about 2,900 cubic yards from the Oval Lagoon, and about 5,000 cubic yards from the North Ditch. The highly contaminated materials were pumped into a bermed pond in the west containment cell and dewatered, or dried.

Taciuk Process. The Taciuk process is a thermal treatment system that separates PCBs from soils and sediments by vaporizing them at high temperatures. When the vapors cooled, the PCBs were condensed into a liquid, removed, and destroyed at an off-site facility.

PCB-contaminated soils and sediments from Slip 3, the Crescent Ditch, and the Oval Lagoon were treated in an on-site mobile Taciuk processor.

Although the Taciuk process has been used before to remove low levels of PCB contamination from soil, the OMC project is the first time this process has been used to remove PCBs in sediments. Over 12,700 tons of material were treated and 35,000 gallons of PCBs were extracted and taken off-site for destruction. The Taciuk processor was operated and evaluated under EPA's Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation (SITE) program, which assists EPA and industry in determining promising and innovative Superund technologies.

**Dredging of Waukegan Harbor.** Hydraulic dredging, or pumping, was used to move about 32,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments from the Harbor. These sediments were deposited into the containment cell constructed in Slip 3. When sediment settling is complete, the Slip 3 cell will be capped.



### Who Accomplished the Work?

Completion of the OMC project required the combined efforts of many groups. The governmental agencies overseeing the actual work were EPA, IEPA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The remedy was implemented by the Waukegan Harbor Trust and its contractor, Canonie Environmental Services Corp. The consent decree required OMC to fund the Trust. Clark Dietz Inc. provided oversight services to the Trust.

## What Happens Next?

After the sediments settle, Slip 3 will be capped. Also, any water extracted from the containment cells will be treated and long-term operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the cells will be performed.

EPA will monitor the project's environmental benefits. This monitoring will focus on determining PCB levels in Waukegan Harbor and in water entering Lake Michigan. It also will monitor, over time, PCB levels in the air and in fish and other aquatic life.

#### Where Can I Get Additional Information?

For more information about the OMC project, visit the site information repository at the following location:

Waukegan Public Library 128 North County Waukegan, Illinois

or contact

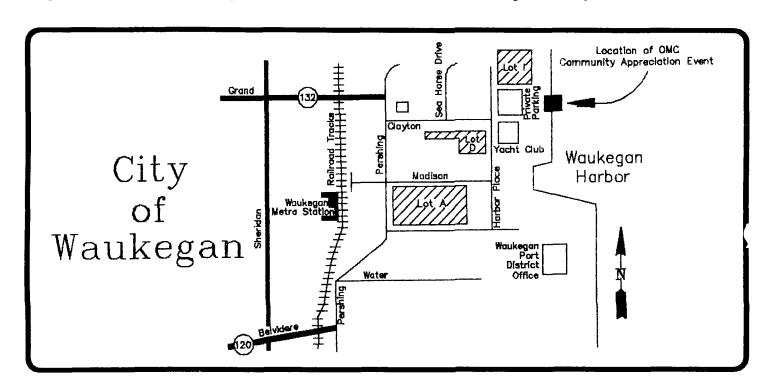
John Perrecone Community Relations Coordinator, PS-19J (312) 353-1149 Bill Bolen
Project Manager, HSRL-6J
(312) 353-6316

Toll-Free: 1-800-621-8341

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604

#### **Community Appreciation Event**

EPA is holding a community celebration at Waukegan Harbor to commemorate the OMC Superfund project. Cake and refreshments will be served, and representatives of groups involved in completing the OMC project will be on hand to talk with citizens. This public event will be held at Waukegan Harbor, on and near the boat, Celebration, which will be docked immediately north of the Waukegan Yacht Club, on Monday, August 2, 1993, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.





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